GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4967
ANSWERED ON:10.05.2007
INDO-US NAVAL EXERCISE
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Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indo-US Naval exercise, code named Malabar, was jointly conducted from April 6 to April 11, 2007 off the Japanese Island of Okinawa and a Tri-lateral exercise with the US Navy and the Japanese Maritime Self-defence Force was also conducted off Tokyo Bay on April 16, 2007;

(b) if so, the objective behind holding such exercises;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on the last exercise at Okinawa;

(d) the country which spent on such exercises;

(e) whether an agreed mechanism for enhanced maritime cooperation between India and America would be set up in the near future; and

(f) if so, the time by which the mechanism would be set up and the role likely to be played by it?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The objective of conducting such joint exercises is to promote mutual cooperation, and gain from the experience of other navies especially in the field of advance technology available with them. It also facilitates inter operability in times of need in situations like disaster management etc.

(c) & (d): The exercise was dovetailed into the overseas deployment of some Indian naval ships to the North Pacific, which involved visit of five ships to six countries. The total expenditure on this overseas deployment was Rs.5.81 crore (approximately), including the joint exercise. Further, the expenditure on operation of the foreign naval ships during the exercise was borne by the respective participating countries.

(e) & (f): An Indo-US Framework for Maritime Security Cooperation has been agreed to between the two governments. The Framework envisages bilateral cooperation in the areas of prevention of/response to piracy and trafficking in arms and drugs, combating marine pollution, search & rescue operations at sea, enhancement of maritime capabilities through technology cooperation, etc.